DELAND WEEKLY NEWS.

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DeLand, Volusia County, Florida, Friday, March 11, 1904.

\$1.00 per Year

-THE LEADING-

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ORZE-SHOEING A SPECIALTY. SCOTT HODGKINS





MAJOR ABRAMS INTERVIEWED

INSIDE HISTORY OF EFFORTS TO SETTLE FORBES-STETSON SUITS

Facts Stated in Clear, Concise Manner-Dr. Forbes' Efforts for Fourth Vindication and Willingness to Place Himself in Hands of Any Fair Committee

For several weeks reports have been put in circulation that Mr. Stetson desired to terminate the litigation between him and Dr. Forbes and Mrs. Mathes, but that he had been prevented from doing so by his being required to admit that he was guilty of libel and slander, and that the only question that Dr. Forbes and his attorney would submit to any one was the question how much money Stetson would pay to Forbes and his attorney. It has also been stated and printed that Stetson was willing to arbitrate, but that Forbes and his attorney would not agree to anything unless Stetson admitted that he had libeled and slandered Dr. Forbes. Another statement was to the effect that Mr. Stetson's attorneys had advised him that he could not arbitrate because he would be without power to compel the attendance of witnesses.

It has also been said and published that the whole proceedings now are to compel Mr. Stetson to pay Dr. Forbes and his attorney a large sum of

In view of these statements, the editor of this paper, on a visit to Jacksonville a few days ago. called on Major St. Clair-Abrams, the attorney of Or. Forbes, and submitted to him the statements that had been made and called his attention to the publications.

Major St. Clair-Abrams stated in reply that he had read these newspaper comments and had also eard of the statements, and denounced them as bsolutely false. At the request of the editor his paper Major St. Clair-Abrams made a statement in effect as follows:

"Soon after the institution of these suits, Dr. Forbes wrote me from DeLand to the effect that 4 Mr. Rufus Magee-I think of Indiana-had been to see him and had expressed to him the opinion that he could settle the matter amicably as a friend of both parties. On Dr. Forbes telling him he could do nothing without the advice of his attoraey, Mr. Magee stated he would be very glad to meet the attorney and discuss the matter with aim. I at once wrote Dr. Forbes that I had no objection to meeting Mr. Magee, but that, as no attorney had appeared in the case for Mr. Stetson, I would not be willing to have a consultation with anyone unless such person brought with him a written authority from Mr. Stetson and Mrs. Stetson. A few days later Dr. Forbes and a strange gentleman called on me and this gentleman was introduced to me as Mr. Magee. He thereupon handed me the following letter:

DELAND, FLA., March 24.

To Major St. Clair- Abrams, Counsellor-at-Law, Jacksonville, Florida,

I hereby authorize the bearer of this,

Rufus Magee, to negotiate and conclude with you, and any other attorney or attorneys associated choose the third) the following questions; viz.: with you in the litigation now pending between J. F. Forbes and Mrs. Mathes as complainants and beth Stetson, both or either of them, slandered or John B. Stetson and Mrs. Stetson as defendants, libeled Dr John F. Forbes, president of John B. pending in the District Court of the United States Stetson University. for the District of Florida. And whatever my said attorney, Rufus Magee, may do in and about beth Stetson, both or either of them, published or settling and compromising the same I hereby re- caused to be published, printed, typewritten or quest full faith and credit be given as though done written affidavits or statements which libeled Dr. by me in my own proper presence, and I hereby ratify and approve all the acts of said Magee which he 3. Whether

and compromise. In testimony I hereunto set my hand and proper should be the conditions of his retirement. ignature this 24th day of March, 1903. (Signed) JOHN B. STETSON.

S. ELIZABETH STETSON. "I was not familiar with Mr. or Mrs. Stetson" signature, but have since learned that the signatures were theirs. Accepting this letter as authority I proceeded to discuss the matter with Mr. Magee and formulated in writing five propositions as the employment of attorneys, the expenses of the

a basis of compromise as follows : 1. That the settlement shall be without any condition, expressed or implied, based upon Dr. Forbes' resigning as president of the University. He must be left absolutely free on this point to take such steps as in his judgment he may deem

2. Mr. Stetson in terms assents to the resolution of the Board of Directors exonerating Dr.

Forbes, passed in September, 1902.

8. Mr. Stetson repudiates and disfvows the interview published in the North American, wherein the language tends to affirm the guilt of Dr.

4. Mr. Stetson repudiates the action of Mr. Stewart in the printing and publication of the

5. Mr. Stetson disavows any knowledge of, or part in, the publications in the newspapers in Flor-

ida assailing Dr. Forbes and using language tending to impute guilt to him.

"It will be perceived that Mr. Stetson's letter did not suggest any arbitration but only a compromise. It will also be perceived that there was nothing said in these five propositions about any money damage. I purposely avoided this. Mr. Magee then asked me what about a money settlement. I told him that if the other propositions were agreed to I did not think that there would be any trouble on the matter of compensation. He then asked me what I thought would be a fair money compensation. I told him I left that entirely to Dr. Forbes, but that, personally, if I was libeled and slandered to the extent Dr. Forbes had been. I did not think that \$50,000 would compensate me for the injury inflicted, but that I did not desire to discuss the money question until the other matters were settled. Mr. Magee then said that he thought the second, third, fourth and fifth propositions could be arranged, but that he could to nothing if we insisted on the first, which was that the settlement should not be based on any consideration of Dr. Forbes resigning as president of the University. He then stated to me that if I would give him the assurance and he could assure Mr. Stetson that Dr. Forbes would resign and make that a part of the consideration of settlement, he was satisfied the other matters could be adjusted. I told him I could not advise Dr. Forbes to do that.

The original paper as dictated by me to my stenographer is now in my hands with the pen and ink mark around number one, made by Mr. Mc-Gee himself. I also stated to Mr. McGee confidentially that Dr. Forbes had insisted on resigning, but that I had objected to it; that, judging from what he told me, I would not be surprised if he did resign, but that I could not advise him to make that a condition of any settlement, monetary or otherwise. He then told me that in view of my insisting on the first proposition he could do nothing, and we parted, he repeating, however, that if I would accept his suggestion that nobody need know that there was any understanding between Dr. Forbes and Mr. Stetson that he would resign and that the other conditions could be readily adjusted and he had no doubt that Mr. stetson would pay a round sum of money to stop the suits "

The editor of this paper then asked Major St. Clair-Abrams as to the statement that they had refused to consent to any arbitration except based apon Mr. Stetson's admitting that he was in the wrong and that the only thing to arbitrate was the amount to be paid by Stetson.

Major St. Clair-Abrams replied that this statement was absolutely untrue and proceeded as

"While in Saratoga last summer, Dr. Forbes, who had been kept advised of my address, wrote me that a prominent minister of the Baptist church had written to him urging an arbitration of the matter and suggesting that he consent to an arbitration.

"I at once telegraphed Dr. Forbes to come to Sara- well shod here. toga and see me. On his arrival he submitted the whole matter in full to me and the result was this proposition of agreement to arbitrate, which was signed by Dr. Forbes:

On condition that Mr. John B. Stetson shall sign an agreement like this I do hereby agree to perfect satisfaction refer to three arbitrators (I to choose one, Mr. John B. Stetson to choose one and these two to

1. Has Mr. John B. Stetson or his wife, Eliza-

2. Has Mr. John B. Stetson, or his wife, Eliza-

shall do and perform in and about such settlement trators Dr. John F. Forbes should retire from the presidency of Stetson University, and if so, what

4. If the the arbitrators, or the majority of them, decide that Dr. Forbes has been libeled or slandered by Mr. John B. Stetson, or his wife, Elizabeth Stetson, both or either of them, what sum of money should be paid to him by way of trators to take into consideration the expenses he has incurred and the obligation he is incurring in cases now pending and the expenses of the arbitration; and if the arbitrators deem it to be to the interest of the University that he should retire from the presidency, to take into consideration also the loss of that position with its salary and practical life tenure.

5. It is agreed that both parties may be represented before the arbitrators by counsel and that the decision of two of the three arbitrators shall be final, and each party binds himself to submit to, obey and carry out the decision of the arbitrators or the majority of them. Given under my hand and seal this seventh day

(Continued on Page 2)

JOHN F. FORBES. (seal) (Signed) Geo. M. Forbes, Rochester, N. Y. Henry D. Gordon, Orange, N. J.

of August, 1908.

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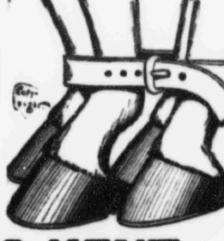
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